



# Working To Get C-17s

Working with local leaders, my colleagues in Congress and the Department of Defense, we’ve made great progress in finding a replacement for the C-141s at MARB.

• The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000, signed into law on October 5, 1999, highlights the lack of any follow-on mission for the five Air Reserve units — including March Air Reserve Base — that currently have the aging C-141 aircraft fleet which is in the process of a complete draw-down. Specifically, this important legislation directs the Air Force to replace the C-141 aircraft fleet with the C-17 aircraft. I will be working, along with my colleagues, to assure the March ARB’s C-141s are replaced with the C-17.

• On November 11, 1999, I organized a meeting regarding the C-17 between fellow colleagues and Air Force representatives. Those in attendance included Representatives Jerry Lewis (CA-40), Mary Bono (CA-44), Steve Horn (CA-38), and Ron Packard (CA-48) along with Air Force Representatives involved in a joint - service study of future air mobility requirements. During the dialogue, I expressed my strong conviction to the Air Force that they buy more C-17s, assign some of those C-17s to the Reserves (at a minimum one squadron of 12 planes), and base the first Reserve squadron of C-17s at March ARB. Decisions about C-17s to the Reserves may be made by the Pentagon in Spring of 2000.

## New Happenings at March Air Reserve Base -

### Navigational Aids - Center Line Lighting

The center line lighting construction project at MARB is expected to begin in the middle of next year with completion by December 1, 2000. Navigational Aids - Center Lighting is required for the commercial use of the runway at March.

### Oleander Avenue Extension

This project is vital to the successful joint-use and redevelopment at March Air Reserve Base. The \$9 million (\$7.2 million federal) improvement project of Oleander Avenue will open nearly 5,000 acres of industrially-planned development in the cities of Moreno Valley and Perris. To date, the project has received clearance from Caltrans regarding environmental concerns, and will begin the acquisition process. It is expected to take six to nine months with the project going to bid in June or July 2000. Completion of the project is expected by December 2000.

### Civilian Refueling System

This project received congressional support in the FY2000 Transportation Appropriations Act, signed into Public Law 106-69 on October 9, 1999. It designates the Civilian Refueling System project as a priority for the Federal Aviation Administration’s Airport Improvement Program.

## How to Contact Congressman Ken Calvert

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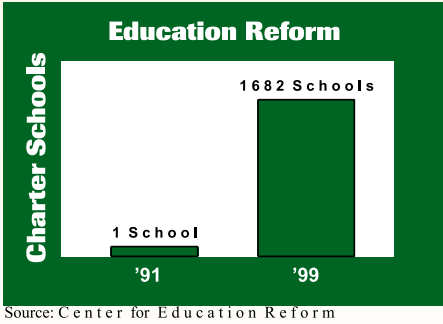
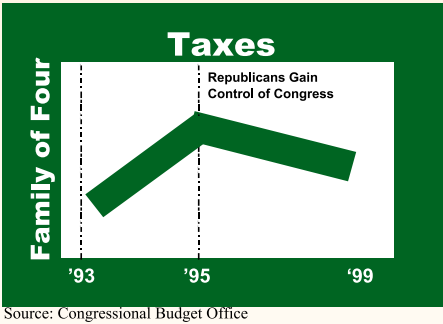
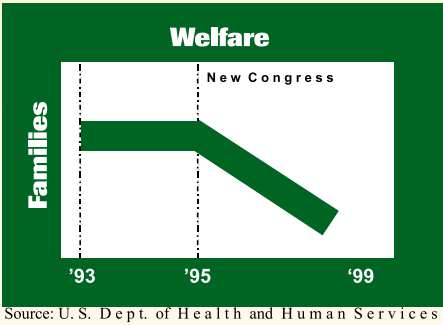
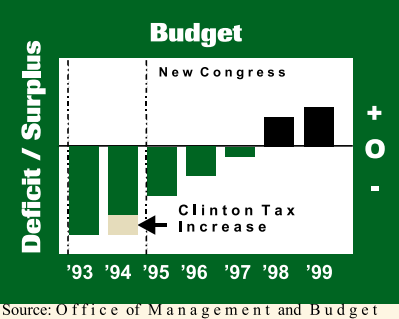
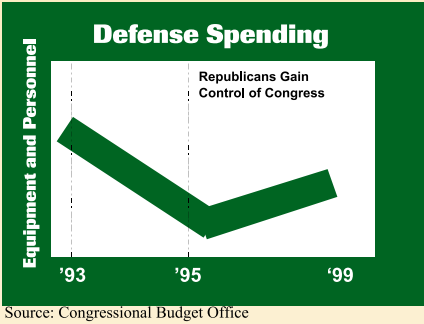
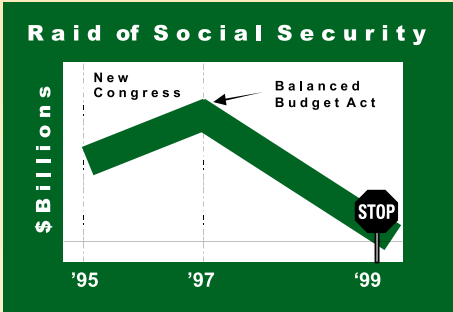
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*Ken Calvert*  
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Winter 1999/2000

Important Military Information from  
Congressman Ken Calvert

Fighting for our Service Men and Women

Dear Friend:

This year we’ve had great success in improving the quality of life for service men and women and strengthening our national defense. The Fiscal Year 2000 Defense Appropriations Act will improve training, benefits and quality of life for the 2.2 million men and women who serve their country. The bill increased funding for housing, child care and medical care; directed resources to help increase the retention rate of our troops; and increased educational benefits through the Montgomery GI bill, among other programs. In addition, we provided a much needed pay raise (4.8%) to our service men and women — the largest military pay increase in 18 years.

We did not forget our Veterans in the process — not by a long shot. This year we enacted the largest increase (\$1.7 billion) in funding for Veterans’ medical care in history. America should salute and honor the men and women in uniform who have fought to maintain the freedom that we cherish. An important part of this commitment to our veterans is quality medical care.

Additionally, we passed the National Missile Defense Act, making it the policy of the United States to develop a ballistic missile defense system. By passing the bill, we changed a flawed defense policy that left America’s children and families vulnerable to the threat of a ballistic missile attack.

I look forward to maintaining our commitment to veterans and the defense of this Great Nation well into the next millennium.

*Ken Calvert*



# Taking Care of our Military and Veterans

## FY2000 Defense Budget

Over the past five years, Congress has added over \$44 billion to the President’s total defense spending requests:

\$7.8 billion in fiscal year 1996

\$14.1 billion in fiscal year 1997

\$3.7 billion in fiscal year 1998

\$11.7 billion in fiscal year 1999

\$7.1 billion in fiscal year 2000

According to testimony of the Joint Chiefs of Staff earlier this year, the President’s six year defense plan falls as much as \$70 billion short of addressing critical shortfalls. Since this testimony, the service chiefs have indicated that problems and shortfalls are worsening.

“If one takes into account supplemental appropriations, fiscal year 1999 was the first year since fiscal year 1986 that defense spending increased in real terms.”

## Additional Defense Highlights:

- 4.8% across-the-board military personnel pay raise.
- \$836 million for Ballistic Missile Defense System.
- \$3 billion for 15 C-17 airlift aircraft and authority for the Air Force to buy more (120 are now authorized).
- \$3.2 billion increase for defense research, development, test and evaluation programs.
- \$100 million to upgrade military housing allowances.
- \$110 million for aviation continuance pay to alleviate Air Force and Navy pilot shortages.

## FY2000 Veterans’ Budget Highlights

- \$1.7 billion increase for Veterans Medical Health Care, to bring spending up to almost \$20 billion.
- \$5 million increase for Veterans’ Medical and Prosthetic Research.
- \$51 million increase for the Veterans Benefits Administration to expedite claims processing.
- \$5 million for Arlington National Cemetery land expansion. Adds 26 acres to the cemetery and approximately 22,000 additional in-ground grave-sites that will extend the use of the cemetery from 2025 through 2036.
- 2.4% cost of living adjustment (COLA) for veterans receiving disability compensation and survivors receiving death benefits — effective January 2000 payment checks.
- Requiring the Veterans’ Administration to pay for emergency care for veterans who do not have insurance or Medicare.

## Strengthening the Naval Warfare Assessment Station Norco

FY2000 Military Construction Appropriations Act - Includes my request for \$7.07 million for the construction of the Navy Gage Laboratory at the Naval Warfare Assessment Station Norco.

FY2000 Defense Appropriations Act - Includes my request for \$7.3 million for the Department of Defense Joint Service Metrology Research and Development Program. As new technologies such as detection of chemical/ biological agents, fiber optic sensors, acoustic imaging of undersea objects, and materials for stealth capabilities are introduced into missiles, planes, ships and tanks, measurement standards must be available to support accurate test and evaluation of new technology as applied to these systems. Of this \$7.3 million, \$3 million for the Navy will directly benefit NWAS.

## PROUDLY COSPONSORED LEGISLATION

**Military Retirement Equity Act (H.R. 65) - This legislation introduced by Rep. Michael Bilirakis of Florida, would allow members of the armed forces, who have a service connected disability, to receive military retirement pay concurrently with veterans’ disability compensation.**

**H.R. 303 and H.R. 44 - These two pieces of legislation were also introduced by Rep. Michael Bilirakis. The first would permit retired members of the Armed Forces, who retire with over 20 years of service and have a service-connected disability, to receive compensation from the Department of Veterans’ Affairs concurrently with retirement pay, without deduction from either. The second would give a special compensation to severely disabled veterans (rated as 70% disabled or above) — those with 20 years of military service and a service-connected disability.**

**Reserve Employer Tax Credit Act (H.R. 803) - This legislation, introduced by Rep. George Nethercutt of Washington, would provide employers with a tax credit to compensate for employee participation in the individual ready reserves. Specifically, the legislation provides a credit equal to 50 percent of the amount of compensation that would have been paid to an employee during the time that that employee participates in contingency operations supporting missions in Bosnia and Southwest Asia.**

## OP-TEMPO AT AN ALL TIME HIGH

- At the same time that U.S. military forces have been shrinking, operations around the world have been increasing at an alarming rate.
- While the Army conducted 11 ‘operational events’ during the 40 year period of 1950-1989, it has conducted 45 ‘operational events’ in just the last nine years.
- While the Marine Corps participated in 12 ‘contingency operations’ during the seven year period of 1982-1989, it has conducted over 100 such ‘contingency operations’ over the past decade.



## RIVERSIDE'S MEDAL OF HONOR MEMORIAL

The Medal of Honor is not given lightly. In fact, it is the highest honor given by Congress for “conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life beyond the call of duty.” It is earned by those men and women who pushed on even though their bodies refused, and did not let their fear paralyze but propel them into action. The stories of valor from the Medal of Honor recipients remind us that ordinary Americans are challenged in extraordinary ways, and rise to meet those challenges. That is why I introduced H.R. 1663, the National Medal of Honor Memorial Act – to honor the sacrifice and bravery of the 3,417 Medal of Honor recipients.

I am proud that my sentiments were shared by my colleagues in the House and Senate as H.R. 1663 passed unanimously. The National Medal of Honor Memorial Act was signed into law by President Clinton on October 28, 1999, just one week before our Riverside National Cemetery Medal of Honor Memorial was dedicated.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower once remarked that, “Whatever America hopes to bring to pass in the world must first come to pass in the heart of America.” The dedication was awe-inspiring and reflective of that process. First and foremost it allowed all Americans an opportunity to dedicate their hearts to giving their utmost to this great nation — to dedicate themselves to upholding the freedom, liberty and democracy that we, at times, take for granted.

The dedication honored every man and woman who served in the Armed Forces, every man and woman who gave their life, every veteran who is still missing in a far away land, and every family in this country who sacrificed their sons and daughters to keep America strong.

The Riverside National Cemetery memorial will bring honor to our Medal of Honor recipients in a solemn manner appropriate to its place in a national cemetery. I can think of no other more appropriate site. Currently, the Riverside National Cemetery is the second largest resting place in our national cemetery system. And in six decades it will be the largest, with over 1.4 million honored veterans. That will make our Riverside National Cemetery larger than the Arlington National Cemetery, which is already at capacity with a quarter of a million veterans. What better place to have a memorial — A NATIONAL SHRINE.

It will list all 3,417 Medal of Honor recipients and represent them with the planting of an Italian Cypress tree. The recipient’s valor, and often sacrifice of life, directly impacted the lives around them but also affected us all in ways that we may not recognize — as has the valor of the millions of men and women in uniform who fought to give us the freedoms we possess today. Freedom to travel freely upon this great land, dream and speak-out without fear. Therefore, in celebration, I would hope that each of us would wake each day dedicated to giving back to our families, friends, communities and nation. Dedicating ourselves each day with a small prayer that — WE SHOULD NEVER FORGET.

\*\* November 5, 1999 Speech at Riverside National Cemetery Medal of Honor Memorial Dedication (modified)

## UPDATE

My bill, H.R. 1663, became Public Law 106-83 on October 28, 1999



Rep. Ken Calvert is joined by (l to r): Supervisor John Tavaglione, Sheriff Larry Smith, Secretary of Defense William Cohen and Supervisor Tom Mullen at the November 5th dedication of the RNC Medal of Honor Memorial.